

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 296824

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 196824

FOL REPEAT STATE 196824 SENT ACTION

ALL NEAR EASTERN AND SOUTH ASIAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

LONDON PARIS MOSCOW PEKING OTTAWA TOKYO USUN GENEVA NATO

SEP 07

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 196824

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNGA, PFOR, XF

SUBJECT: PALESTINIAN ITEM IN UNGA

REF: A. USUN 3025

B. CAIRO 6780

C. BEIRUT 10406

D. CAIRO 6876 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING PROVIDED FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND FOR LOW
KEY USE ON "IF-ASKED" BASIS, RE UNGA ITEM ON PALESTINIAN
QUESTION.

2. REFTELS REFLECT DECISION OF ARAB LEAGUE POLITICAL
COMMITTEE (COMPOSED OF ALGERIA, EGYPT, LEBANON, SYRIA AND
ARAB LEAGUE SYG) TO INSCRIBE SEPARATE ITEM ON PALESTINIAN
QUESTION IN 29TH UNGA AGENDA AND PROBABLY SEEK ALLOCATION
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PAGE 02 STATE 296824

OF ITEM TO PLENARY. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ARABS WILL MEET AT

UN ON SEPTEMBER 9 TO DEVELOP TACTICS AND OBJECTIVES OF UNGA DEBATE ON THIS ISSUE. WE BELIEVE ONE OF ORIGINAL INTENTIONS WAS TO SEEK PERMANENT OBSERVER TO UN STATUS FOR PLO IN CONTEXT OF PROPOSED NEW ITEM, BUT MORE RECENT REPORTS INDICATE ARABS LEANING TOWARD LIMITING THEIR REQUEST FOR PLO PARTICIPATION TO RIGHT TO SPEAK WITHOUT VOTE DURING PALESTINIAN DEBATE. NEVERTHELESS, WE CANNOT RULE OUT REQUEST FOR FORMAL OBSERVER STATUS FOR PLO, WHICH WOULD RAISE SERIOUS PROBLEMS. (SYG'S INFORMAL GUIDELINES FOR OBSERVER STATUS AT UN ARE (A) MEMBERSHIP IN AT LEAST ONE UN SPECIALIZED AGENCY AND (B) RECOGNITION AS SOVEREIGN STATE BY SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF UN MEMBERS. PLO WOULD NOT MEET THIS CRITERIA ON GROUNDS THAT THE PLO IS NOT A MEMBER OF ANY SPECIALIZED AGENCY, AND IT IS CLEARLY NOT RECOGNIZED AS A STATE.) DURING 1973 AND 1972 UNGAS PLO SPOKE WITHOUT RIGHT TO VOTE IN SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE ON UNRWA AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN ISRAELI OCCUPIED TERRITORIES ITEMS. HOWEVER THE UNIFORM PAST PRACTICE HAS BEEN TO PERMIT ONLY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF STATES TO ADDRESS THE UNGA IN PLENARY. PLO MAINTAINS INFORMATION OFFICE IN N.Y. WHICH HAS NO OFFICIAL STATUS WITH UN.

3. WE ARE CONCERNED LEST GA DISCUSSION OF PALESTINIAN ITEM EXACERBATE ME SITUATION AND MAKE NEGOTIATIONS MORE DIFFICULT AND WE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO AVOID THIS DEBATE. NEVERTHELESS, ARABS APPEAR FIRM IN THEIR DETERMINATION TO INSCRIBE ITEM. SINCE PROPOSAL FOR INSCRIPTION OF PALESTINIAN ITEM HAS NOT YET BEEN PRESENTED TO US AND AS WE LACK DEFINITE INFORMATION ON SCOPE, CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THIS ITEM, US IS NOT YET IN POSITION TO DETERMINE ITS ATTITUDE. IF AND WHEN WE ARE INFORMED ABOUT SPECIFICS OF PROPOSED ITEM, US WOULD HAVE TO WEIGH ITS ATTITUDE ON HOW WE WOULD RESPOND IN GA IN LIGHT OF OUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF FACILITATING NEGOTIATIONS AMONG THE PARTIES LOOKING TOWARD A JUST AND PERMANENT MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. KISSINGER

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